GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3836
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
BHUJ AS A FIELD STATION
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;KAMAL NATH;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI;SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army officials posted at Bhuj (Kutch, Gujarat) have requested the Government to declare the quake-ravaged district as a field station posting for defence officials serving the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): The proposals have been received from Service Headquarters to declare Bhuj District as Field Area so that some of the concessions which are admissible in Field Areas could be made available to the personnel who suffered loss of life and property due to earthquake. The matter has been considered by the Government. Under the existing orders `Field Area` is an area where troops are deployed near the border for operational requirements and where imminence of hostilities and associated risks to life exist. The status of area cannot be changed by occurrence of a natural calamity with the objective of giving some benefits to the personnel affected by the tragedy. The proposal therefore was not agreed to. However, taking into consideration the exceptional circumstances and the dedicated work done by the Defence Service personnel posted at Bhuj, it has been decided to grant suitable honorarium to such personnel.